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Council on Aging Minutes 01/12/06

The following minutes of the January 12, 2006 Special Meeting were approved at a Regular Meeting of the COA on February 16, 2006.

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING
 27 Maple Street
 Arlington, MA 02476-4909

Robert Tosi, Jr., Chair
 Paul West, Vice Chair
 Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Special Meeting of the Council on Aging
 January 12, 2006

MINUTES

Purpose of the Special Meeting: To meet jointly with the Arlington Seniors Association, Inc. (ASA) to socialize and discuss matters of mutual interest and concern.

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 6:00 p.m. COA Members Present: Bob Tosi, Jr., Mildred Hurd, Ann MacGowan, Robert Carey and Shirley Chapski.

COA Members Absent: Ruth Palombo, William Carey, Harry McCabe and Paul West Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Bob Tosi, Chair, presided and Shirley Chapski, Secretary, kept the minutes. A quorum of five was present.

ASA Members Present: Elisa Lopez, President, Charles Schwab, Treasurer, Maureen Jackson, Asst. Clerk, Marie Moran, Gloria von Hyeburg, Joan Caterino, Lillian Brodice, Kay Mitchell, Ruth Silver, and David Veinot

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director COA, Joan Pippin, ASA Coordinator, Bill Murphy, Director of Volunteers, COA, and Marilyn Richards, Chaplain Intern at the COA.

A light supper was served followed by a tour of the COA and Cooperative Elder Services (CESI) areas conducted by John Jope.

Bob Tosi called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and both he and Lisa Lopez, President of the ASA, welcomed all those in attendance and read the Mission Statements of their respective organizations. Bob distributed the agenda for the meeting which listed the following goals:

- To build upon progress made at previous ASA & COA joint socials,
- To put to rest any old misconceptions and perceived divisions between the two entities, and
- To acknowledge past successes and start planning for additional joint events, etc.

Next, those in attendance introduced themselves and gave a brief background of their involvement with their respective agencies. Ruth Silver mentioned that it is the 25th Anniversary of the Arlington Senior Association and a Planning Committee has been formed to work on a fund raising project and other events.

POSSIBLE JOINT EVENTS: Discussion ensued concerning the following:

- Health Fair: The last Senior Health Fair was held October 23, 2003 and was very successful. It was agreed that it would be good to repeat this effort.
- Senior Center Open House: The open house would take place apart from Town Day and would showcase all that the Senior Center has to offer. Charles Schwab heartily endorsed this suggestion.
- Handyman Program: Different models were proposed one of which was to have volunteers go to individuals' homes to carry out the

requested repairs. It was suggested that the Handyman Program be referred to the ASA Program Committee. Several years ago they explored the possibility of having such a program at the senior center but it never came to fruition.

POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURES:

- Consideration of Name Change for Senior Center: Discussion ensued but met with some objection. Ann MacGowan talked about seniors who are now approaching retirement and how their outlook and expectations will be different from seniors of the past. John proposed we rethink what we mean by "senior" and what they will want from senior centers.
- Lobby for Refurbishment to the Senior Center: Some areas of the senior center are in need of attention and the following needs list was compiled: (a) improvement to Arts & Crafts Room #1, especially the floor which is heavily worn and walls in need of repainting; (b) the floor and walls of the ground floor entrance lobby; (c) the side door near the walk-in room; (d) the missing Council on Aging sign; and (e) additional signage in the parking area. It was agreed that both the ASA and COA members draft letters to Kevin O'Brien of the Redevelopment Board outlining these needs, bring the drafts to the next meeting, and then incorporate them into one letter to be presented to the respective boards for approval.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS: Bob spoke of a newly created outreach program which has the very ambitious goal of reaching every Arlingtonian of 60 + plus years by the end of the year 2007. This will be a wonderful opportunity to get our message out. The first meeting of the Senior Outreach Task Force will take place in February.

Bob thanked the joint committee and all others involved for their efforts in arranging the meeting, providing desserts and coffee and a round of applause was extended to Bob for a tremendous effort.

The next ASA/COA committee meeting will be Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 10 a.m.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Shirley Chapski, Secretary